



Construction Ahead!

December 2007
Issue 7

New Interstate 10 lanes open to drivers this fall

Travelers on Interstate 10 in Redlands received the gift of time with the completion of new freeway lanes during the past month. San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) and Caltrans opened the new eastbound lane on November 15, ahead of the Thanksgiving traffic rush, and the new westbound lane on December 12, prior to the Christmas travel crunch.

"The opening of these lanes has resulted in a significant time savings for drivers," said SANBAG Executive Director Deborah Barmack. "Motorists are telling us that they are saving between 15 and 30 minutes each day—a true gift of time."

Barmack was joined by local, state and federal officials for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting on November 29 to celebrate the completion of the two-year, \$46.5 million project.



Transportation and elected officials commemorate the opening of new lanes on Interstate 10 in Redlands during a ceremony on November 29.

The speakers noted that the freeway widening would reduce traffic congestion for not only local drivers and commuters, but also for truckers hauling freight through the region.

Interstate 10 is a Trade Corridor of National Significance and the primary route for cargo headed from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to Arizona, Texas and the Gulf Coast. (See story at right).

Landscaping and irrigation work is underway for the project. This and other finishing work will continue through the winter. Cat's claw, bougainvillea, red New Zealand flax and ice plant ground cover are scheduled to be planted. Climbing plants will be placed next to the new freeway sound walls to add color and reduce graffiti. To report graffiti, please call the Caltrans Maintenance Division at (909) 383-1910.



I-10 is king of freight routes

Trucks, trucks and more trucks. It's hard to travel on Interstate 10 in the San Bernardino Valley without seeing a steady line of cargo-carrying vehicles heading east to the rest of the nation.

I-10 is one of the heaviest congested stretches of freeway in San Bernardino County, and truck volumes are expected to increase dramatically in the coming years. Traffic counts show:

- Between 204,000 and 237,000 vehicles travel daily on I-10 in the San Bernardino Valley. These volumes likely will grow to 240,000-270,000 by 2030.
- Up to 24,000 trucks move freight through this area each day. Between 13,000 and 15,000 of these trucks are "big rigs," with five axles or more.

San Bernardino Associated Governments is continuing to seek funding for I-10 improvements, especially for heavily congested interchanges that are near logistics centers in Fontana and Rialto.

Thank you for your interest in the Redlands Interstate 10 widening project. If you know someone who would like to receive **Construction Ahead** or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please send your request to afranco@sanbag.ca.gov or call (909) 889-8611 x102.

Governments
SANBAG
Working Together

Environmental studies begin for proposed carpool lanes on I-10

SANBAG and Caltrans began preliminary engineering and environmental studies this summer to add a carpool lane in both directions on Interstate 10 between Ford Street in Redlands and Haven Avenue in Ontario.

The freeway currently has carpool lanes west of Haven Avenue; this project is proposed to extend these lanes east to Redlands, a distance of about 25 miles. In addition to the new carpool lanes, the project proposes to:

- Widen existing roadways and undercrossings
- Reconstruct several freeway overcrossings
- Realign on-ramps and off-ramps
- Add auxiliary lanes for better merging across lanes
- Improve drainage conditions

Project planners will conduct mapping and land surveying and complete technical studies of traffic conditions, hazardous materials, railroad operations, public utilities, historic properties, right of way needs, air quality, noise, sensitive plants/wildlife, water quality, seismic issues, drainage and other potential impacts to the area.

These studies, combined with input from local jurisdictions and the public, will help planners recommend a preferred project alternative for state and federal environmental clearance. This phase of work is expected to be complete by late 2010. Future phases are not yet funded and could cost an estimated \$1.2 billion. SANBAG advanced revenue from its 2010-2040 Measure I program to fund the environmental phase now underway.



Freeway Service Patrol wraps up construction zone patrols on I-10

Nearly 5,000 drivers were offered help by the Freeway Service Patrol within the I-10 construction zone between November 2005 and early December 2007.



The roving tow service provides roadside aid during peak traffic times, at no charge to motorists. Repairs took an average of nine minutes; one-fourth of the repairs were offered to big-rig trucks.

Approximately 37% of the drivers declined assistance for a variety of reasons, but thousands of others have accepted the helping hand:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ 840 mechanical breakdowns | ■ 540 flat tires |
| ■ 428 overheated vehicles | ■ 323 accidents |
| ■ 323 empty gas tanks | ■ 284 abandoned vehicles |
| ■ 141 debris clearance | ■ 115 electrical problems |
| ■ 6 vehicle fires | ■ 2 key lockouts |

The service is funded by a combination of state funds and Measure I, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in San Bernardino County.

We're listening...

For questions about this project, please call the I-10 helpline at (909) 889-8611 x102. Callers may leave a message, which will be returned by the next business day.



Do not use the helpline to report travel emergencies; instead, call 911.

I-10 East Valley project series to continue

The widening of Interstate 10 in Redlands marks the completion of the second project in a series of improvements planned for the county's eastern valley.

First in the series was the construction of a 3.7-mile truck-climbing lane from Redlands to Yucaipa, which was completed in 2005. Other area projects include:

- Widening of the Live Oak Canyon Road interchange with I-10 in Yucaipa. Construction began in September and likely will take 18 to 24 months to complete.
- Final design to add a westbound lane on I-10 between Live Oak Canyon Road in Yucaipa and Ford Street in Redlands.
- Preliminary engineering and environmental studies for improvements to the Tippecanoe Avenue/Anderson Avenue interchange with I-10 in San Bernardino/Loma Linda.
- Preliminary engineering and environmental studies to add a carpool lane in each direction between Haven Avenue in Ontario and Ford Street in Redlands.

For more information, go to www.sanbag.ca.gov/projects.